

THE DAILY TEXAN

Friday, December 3, 2010

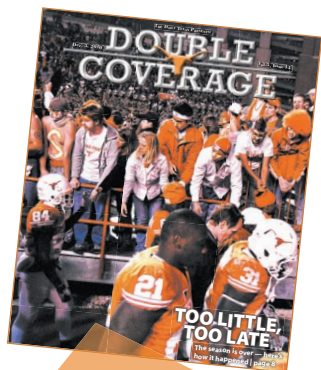
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TOMORROW'S WEATHER

High
77Low
43

WEEKEND



To read about Longhorn football, see Double Coverage

FRIDAY

Jingle bells

The Butler School of Music and members of the Tower Singers, a UT staff choir, present a Christmas sing-along on the West Mall at noon.

Fresh meat

New members of the Texas Legislature get a crash course on everything from health care to transportation policy. The public is invited to the free pre-session conference in the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center at 9:30 a.m.

SATURDAY

Public radio

Ira Glass, host and producer of NPR's 'This American Life,' will be at the Paramount Theatre. Event starts at 8 p.m. and tickets are \$40

'The way you move'

Georgia-born rapper Big Boi will perform at the East Side Drive-In. Event starts at 7 p.m. and tickets are \$35

SUNDAY

'Hinterland'

UT's National Press Photographers Association presents their fall show juried by Roy Flukinger, a senior curator at the Harry Ransom Center. Event starts at 6 p.m. at Pump Project Satellite on Shady Lane.

PREVIEW

New series

Check out The Daily Texan on Monday for part one of a three-part series looking into the Center for Students in Recovery. The series will feature interviews with UT students who overcame drug and alcohol addictions.



Quote to note

You can still enjoy the pleasures of the holidays while not losing all the good inertia you have going with your behavior. Pay attention, monitor something and transcend."

— **Mark Faries**
Graduate research assistant at the Fitness Institute of Texas

LIFE&ARTS PAGE 10

University colleges unite to talk about budget cuts

By Audrey White
Daily Texan Staff

Under a cloud of controversy about recommended cuts to 15 University centers and institutes, the College of Liberal Arts had its first College Tuition and Budget Advisory Committee meeting Thursday morning.

Senate of College Councils, which created the advisory com-

mittee program, discussed University funding again in its last meeting of the semester that night.

College of Liberal Arts Dean Randy Diehl sat down with the 12 students on the committee, which includes Student Government, Graduate Student, Senate of College Councils and at-large members, to discuss the budget forecast for the college. The group will serve as a

bridge to help relay student opinion to the administration as well as to help explain and discuss budget planning and potential cuts to all students in the college.

"There have been complaints because there's no direct student voice in budgetary conversations, and this is our way of getting that direct

SENATE continues on page 2



Jono Foley | Daily Texan Staff

Freshman Laura Wright listens to discussion of University policy concerning academic dishonesty at the Senate meeting on Thursday.

LENDING A HAND for the holidays



Photos by Erika Rich | Daily Texan Staff

Above, Terry Cole, who started the Street Youth Ministry program, plays with Zeus. Below, Zeus's owner, Tess Joyce (left), is street-dependent. Courtney Scales, Samantha James and "Smerf" mourn at a Street Youth Ministry memorial for Andre Walker, a street youth murdered in

Missionary volunteers services, message to homeless youth around UT campus

By Audrey White

Smerf looks at the ground while he speaks about his fractured family, his psychiatric disorders, his years as a drug user and dealer and his experiences seeing friends die. But when he starts talking about missionary Terry Cole, his eyes brighten and he smiles.

"Terry is awesome," said Smerf, who went by the name Steven Chevre until he started living on the Drag five years ago at 17. "He's got such a big heart, and he's helped me through some really tough times."

The two met when Cole was volunteering with the LifeWorks

YOUTH continues on page 2



Regents approve renewal of athletics directors' contracts

By Collin Eaton
Daily Texan Staff

The UT System Board of Regents gave UT President William Powers Jr. authority to renew and boost the contracts for men's athletics director DeLoss Dodds and women's athletic director Christine Plonsky on Thursday.

Dodds has led the UT athletics program for the past 30 years from a \$4.8 million operation in 1981 to a \$136 million operation in 2010-11. He was a key player in building the prestige of the Big 12 Conference since its inception in 1996 and in the next few years will oversee the new Longhorn Network, which could bring in \$15 million for UT.

Powers will decide the details of the new contracts in consultation with certain regents, but the new contract will only require approval from Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa.

"The ball is in UT-Austin's court right now," said UT System spokesman Matt Flores.

Dodds' contract currently pays him \$675,000 including potential incentives, and Plonsky

"The ball is in UT-Austin's court right now."

— **Matt Flores**
UT System spokesman

makes \$325,000, including performance incentives.

Powers will negotiate the terms of Dodds' and Plonsky's contracts in consultation with Colleen

McHugh, chairman of the board of regents, regent Robert Stillwell, chairman of the board's academic affairs committee and regent Steven Hicks, the board's athletic liaison. President Powers made recommendations during the board's executive session, Hicks said.

Under Dodds, the Longhorns have earned 23 NCAA bowl berths, athletics programs have brought back 23 national championships and about 100 Big 12 and Southwestern Conference titles. The athletics department also brought in \$6 million that went to UT's academic core budget. Dodds has promoted the up-and-coming Longhorn television network for years.

The Texas Exes alumni association honored Dodds in October with the Distinguished Service Award, the most prestigious award the association can give

ATHLETIC continues on page 2

State public education may face less funding

By Nolan Hicks
Daily Texan Staff

Texas spends more money on public and higher education than on any other part of the budget, with more than 40 percent of the spending going to classrooms.

Because of the estimated \$25 billion revenue shortfall in the upcoming budget, the Texas Education Agency, which runs K-12 public education and has a budget of about \$50 billion over the two-year budgeting period, may no longer be exempt from the pain of spending cuts.

"We know that it's going to be bad. We don't know how bad until the comptroller gives us her revenue estimate," said State Rep. Scott Hochberg, D-Houston, chairman of the Texas House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.

Hochberg said it would be impossible to predict how much education spending might be cut at this time because there is so much

variance in projections of what the budget shortfall might be.

"We need to look at the growth in education spending," said Bill Peacock, director of the Center for Economic Freedom at the Texas Public Policy Foundation.

Peacock said the TPPF, a leading conservative think tank, is looking into areas where growth in education spending has exceeded growth in the number of students in public schools. He pointed to administration and "excessive costs and regulation" as potential places to cut.

"The vast majority of public education spending is in the classroom or to support things that are in the classroom," said Dick Lavine, senior fiscal analyst at the Center for Public Policy Priorities. "It's not wasteful administration to have school counselors or school nurses. It's hard to believe that much bloat would have

SCHOOLS continues on page 2

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TODAY'S WEATHER

High
75



Low
56

I need to go to Whataburger before it closes.

TICKLING THE IVORIES



Shannon Kintner | Daily Texan Staff

Really Big Birds' Pat Thrasher plays electric piano on Congress late Thursday evening to "make more people happy." "Why would you not want to play piano in Austin?" he says of his hobby.

YOUTH: Advocate tries to make religion relevant to disaffected

From page 1

drop-in on 23rd Street a few years ago. Cole didn't know then that what began as an incidental volunteer job in 2003 would evolve in 2008 into a full-time missionary post to serve and reach out to the street youth on and around Guadalupe Street.

Cole was earning a six-figure income each year at the time and went on mission trips when he could. Eventually, he said he realized God was calling him to minister to street youth full-time.

He spent a year working with social-services program LifeWorks and an outreach program called Cream and Sugar and eventually created his own organization, called Street Youth Ministry, which

he operates with support from Covenant Presbyterian Church.

"The college-age group tends to believe the church is hypocritical, judgmental and no fun," Cole said. "But the street kids are so spiritually hungry, and I try my best to show them the Word."

He conducts several weekly programs, including Bible studies, prayer times, outreach and food distribution and fellowship dinners. He collects sleeping bags and jackets in the winter to distribute on freezing nights. When a street youth dies — in an accident, an overdose or a murder — Cole helps the youth organize memorial services in his or her honor.

Cole said he works with at least 25 street youth on the Drag during any given week. About 40 percent

of his clients come from the foster care system, one-third have a history of mental health problems and about two-thirds have chemical substance abuse problems, he said. About 25 percent stay around Austin full-time, while the rest are transient. They are largely 17-25 years old and one-fourth are women.

UT Police Department and Austin Police Department officers most regularly have to arrest or cite street youth for public intoxication, public urination, sleeping in public and aggressive panhandling, said UTPD Officer Darrell Halstead.

"Many people perceive the street kids as a problem, but if you get to know them, they will be a blessing," Cole said.

SCHOOLS: Property tax cap created budget shortfall

From page 1

survived this long because our schools haven't been well-funded for some time."

Lavine said word around the Capitol is that programs like drop-out prevention and pre-kindergarten programs are on the chopping block for total elimination of state support.

"When you make these kinds

of cuts, you're going to have an impact on the kids," said Clay Robison, a spokesman for the Texas State Teachers Association. "You're going to have larger classes — if you have more kids, [teachers] won't be able to give them the attention they need."

He also said that, depending on the severity of the cutbacks, neighborhood schools might have to be closed and school bus ser-

vice would be reduced.

Hochberg said the current budget crisis is not a one-time problem and blamed the property tax reforms put in place in 2006, when legislators significantly reduced the cap on property taxes that school districts could charge and created a franchise tax on businesses to make up the lost revenue.

Hochberg said legislators bal-

SENATE: Council engages students with budgeting

From page 1

voice," said Liberal Arts Council President Carl Thorne-Thomsen. "This first meeting was educational and informational because there is a lot of information out there and a lot of confusion."

Over the course of the spring semester, the advisory committee will begin working with administrators, faculty and students in every college and school, said Senate spokesman Michael Morton, a journalism sophomore.

During the Senate meeting, representatives passed a resolution in support of additional state funding for the University. Although Senate has never lobbied at the Legislature before, it is necessary that they represent student academics with higher education funding on the chopping block when the state legislature tries to resolve a budget deficit that exceeds \$20 million, said Senate Vice President Drew Finke.

"We need to be able to say that the things we [call] student concerns are actually things students care about," Finke said about the importance of the legislation. "Investing in education at the Uni-

versity of Texas pays dividends down the line, and it's really investing in the future of Texas."

Senate passed five other resolutions, addressing creation of a system to report academic dishonesty, faculty and staff preparedness in emergencies, a new potential interdisciplinary program, course equivalency for study abroad courses and management of college council funds after the Student Organization Bank closes in January.

The resolution related to the interdisciplinary program spurred some debate, as representatives from Liberal Arts, Natural Sciences and the LBJ school questioned if the program reflected elements from existing interdisciplinary programs such as the Bridging Disciplines Program.

The resolution passed, so author Josh Fjelstul will create a committee to discuss the possible creation of the program, called Res Novae, which means New Minds. It would be housed in the School of Undergraduate Studies and include a global issues focus and a capstone project. Students from all majors would be eligible to participate.

ATHLETIC: Devoted sports fan praises expansions, program

From page 1

to an individual who did not graduate from UT. Dodds graduated from Kansas State University in 1959. He later served in the U.S. Army as a tank commander before becoming athletics director at Kansas State University. He was hired as UT's ninth athletic director in 1981.

Wyndam Smith, a 1964 UT alumnus who has attended all but one UT vs. Texas A&M

game since 1950, said Dodds' vision has boosted not only the Longhorn football program but all of UT athletics. Dodds has also overseen an expansion of the Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium, which now seats more than 100,000 people, and the construction of state-of-the-art training facilities, Smith said.

"He just promotes Texas sports from girls' softball to the men's football team; he's done a heck of a job," Smith said.

LAW: Previous ruling against death penalty stirred debate

From page 1

criticism but acknowledged innocent people have been executed in Texas. Following the judge's statement, the Harris County district attorney's office filed a motion for Fine to remove himself from the case. A state appeals court denied the motion because Fine had not yet made a decision.

Prosecutors responded by filing a writ to stop the hearing two weeks ago, but all nine members of the state Criminal Court of Appeals, the state's highest criminal court, denied the motion. The prosecutors are trying to avoid having a hearing in which the truth about the death penalty is put into evidence, Keilen said.

"That says something in and of itself," she said. "The prosecutors don't want the public to realize how unreliable the system is because support for the death penalty would decrease."

The Harris County district attorney's office declined to comment on the upcoming hearing.

Green's defense attorney Robert Loper said he is glad they have a chance for a hearing.

"If they were to uphold it, I think that would be the end of the death penalty in Texas," he said.

THE DAILY TEXAN

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DE-STRESS AT THE CACTUS!

Arsenic-using bacteria effects 'alien' speculations

WASHINGTON — The discovery of a strange bacteria that can use arsenic as one of its nutrients widens the scope for finding new forms of life on Earth and possibly beyond.

While researchers discovered the unusual bacteria here on Earth, they say it shows that life has possibilities beyond the major elements that have been considered essential.

"This organism has dual capability. It can grow with either phosphorous or arsenic. That makes it very peculiar, though it falls short of being some form of truly 'alien' life," commented Paul C. W. Davies of Arizona State University, a co-author of the report appearing in Thursday's online edition of the journal Science.

Six major elements have long been considered essential for life — carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorus and sulfur.

But the researchers found that the bacteria, discovered in Mono Lake, Calif., is able to continue to grow after substituting arsenic for phosphorous.

The study focuses on a microbe found on Earth. However, the announcement of a news conference to discuss it, which did not disclose details of the find, generated widespread speculation on the Internet that the report would disclose the discovery of extraterrestrial life.

Felisa Wolfe-Simon of NASA's Astrobiology Institute, who led the study, targeted Mono Lake because it has high arsenic levels.

Arsenic and phosphorous are

chemically similar, so she speculated that a microbe exposed to both might be able to substitute one for the other.

"Arsenic is toxic mainly because its chemical behavior is so similar to that of phosphorus. As a result, organisms have a hard time telling these elements apart. But arsenic is different enough that it doesn't work as well as phosphorus, so it gets in there and sort of gums up the works of our biochemical machinery," Andar explained.

The microbe does grow better on phosphorous, but showing that it can live with arsenic instead raises the possibility that a life form using arsenic could occur naturally, either elsewhere on Earth or on another planet or moon where arsenic is more common.



The discovery of a strange bacteria that can use arsenic as one of its nutrients widens the scope for finding new forms of life. The bacteria, discovered in Mono Lake, Calif., is able to continue to grow after substituting arsenic for phosphorous.

Ben Margot
Associated Press

NEWS BRIEFLY

Judge stops Great Lakes states from foiling invasive species

CHICAGO — A federal judge has ruled against five states hoping to stop Asian Carp from invading the Great Lakes by closing Chicago-area shipping locks.

U.S. District Judge Robert Dow on Thursday said the locks will remain open. He says while potential harm from the invasive species could be great, plaintiffs did not present enough evidence that the harm was imminent.

Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin officials wanted the locks closed and barriers installed to prevent the giant fish from slipping into the lakes and potentially decimating a \$7 billion-a-year fishing industry.

Opponents say that closing the locks would undermine critical flood-control measures in the region, hurting commerce.

A Michigan Attorney General's office spokeswoman says officials are reviewing the ruling.

—The Associated Press

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OVERVIEW:

A call for productive protesting

With budget cuts threatening 15 liberal arts centers and institutes, which stand to lose a total of \$1 million, 150 outraged students marched across the West Mall, through the Main Building and into Gebauer on Wednesday.

This is the first time students have formally responded to the cuts since the College of Liberal Arts' Academic Planning and Advisory Committee made recommendations in November on how to implement the state-mandated 10-percent, or \$3.75 million, cut.

We hope that students will be heard and included in the budget-cutting decisions and that college administrators will re-evaluate their plans to cut funding for ethnic studies centers.

However, there comes a point when protesting becomes counterproductive, and that point came Wednesday when some students called the potential cuts and those who recommended them racist. While those students were part of a small but vocal minority, their accusations do much disservice to the entire cause.

Senior Associate Dean Richard Flores, who has served as associate director of the Center for Mexican American Studies twice in the last decade, denied this and assured protesters that the committee evaluated all of the college's centers in the same manner. Other administrators, including President William Powers Jr. and liberal arts Dean Randy Diehl, have said that these centers are a priority.

An inflammatory accusation of racism must be supported by more than signs and screams.

Additionally, calling the cuts racist will not get the movement anywhere. Instead, it hinders the effectiveness of the protests. The impending cuts, much like the previous ones, reveal a lack of transparency and student input in the budget decision-making process. A better approach against the cuts would emphasize these faults and demand for reform of the process.

Protecting the brand

UT forced a Kansas high school to change its logo, which was the head of an ox. The high school's mascot bore a slight resemblance to UT's mascot, the longhorn, and this disturbed UT officials. After months of communication with the University, Gardner Edgerton High School added a body to the ox's head to prevent misinterpretation.

Thank god.

The University, in its trademark-protecting glory, is making sure nobody confuses the University of Texas at Austin with Gardner Edgerton High School in Gardner, Kan.

We can definitely see how that's a possibility.

UT represents more than 50,000 students. Edgerton High represents 1,171 young people.

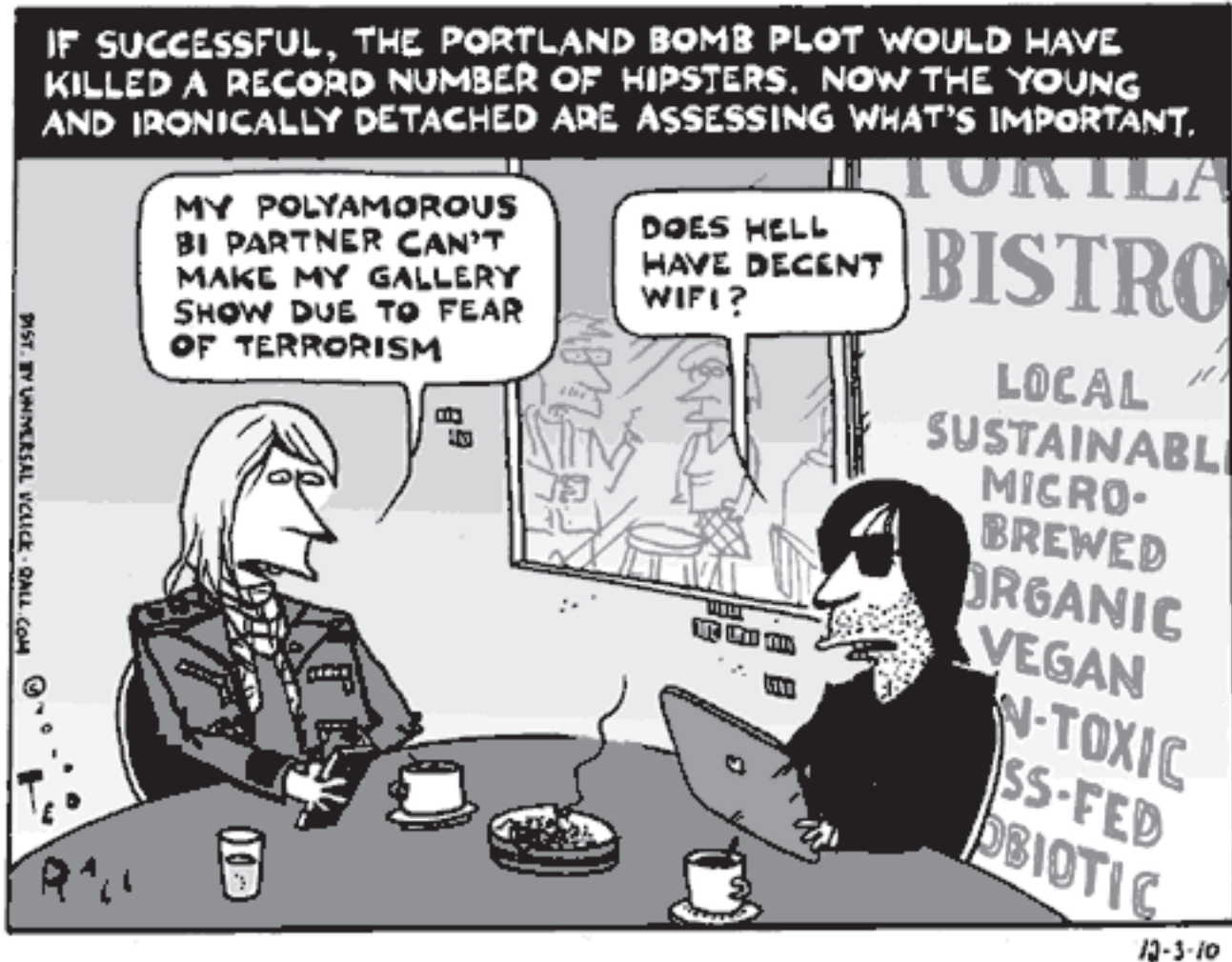
The UT Longhorn is famously burnt orange. The Edgerton Ox Horn is unfamously blue.

People nationwide recognize and associate the Longhorn with the University of Texas at Austin. Few people Kansas-wide recognize and associate the ox horn with Gardner Edgerton High School.

We don't know how the University first discovered the supposed trademark infraction, but we hope that, to avoid any further confusion, UT doesn't stop with Edgerton High and trademarks everything bovine-related.

The Gardner Edgerton Trailblazer football team also went 11-1 in the 2010 season. The University of Texas Longhorn football team did not.

GALLERY



College Republicans owe us an apology

By Brandon Curl
Daily Texan Columnist

I get it, College Republicans at Texas. I really do. It's not easy being a conservative organization on a liberal college campus — or should I say, any college campus.

Despite the fact that the midterm elections were not kind to Democrats nationally, Austin voters continued to show their support for liberal candidates. More than 69,000 of Travis County voters punched a straight-ticket ballot for Democrats. Defeated gubernatorial candidate Bill White, who received less than 43 percent of the total vote, garnered more than 59 percent of the vote here in Travis County. And in 30 total elections that pitted a Democrat against a Republican, Travis County voters preferred the Democrat 27 times.

It's safe to assume that, were the data available, we'd find the vote amongst Texas students even more one-sided. On campus, liberal opinion dominates the dialogue with separate protests waged in the past two weeks in the form of a hunger strike in support of the DREAM Act and a walkout to fight budget cuts to ethnic studies. Your peers, it appears, don't agree with you. Which is exactly why, College Republicans at Texas, you shouldn't have invited Michelle Malkin to speak on campus this past week.

John Chapman, spokesman for the College Republicans, was quoted in The Daily Texan this week as suggesting Malkin provided a valuable alternative to campus opinion. "We know UT is

a very liberal environment, so we want to make sure we bring as many perspectives as possible," he said. Unfortunately, the perspective Malkin brings is merely sensationalist and only serves to further marginalize reasonable conservative opinion on campus.

Malkin began writing for the Los Angeles Daily News in 1992 and was made famous for her controversial New York Times bestselling books. In her second book, released in 2004, Malkin defended Japanese internment during World War II and advocated racial profiling of Muslim-Americans today.

In the lead-up to her speaking event on campus, a full-page advertisement was printed in The Daily Texan that would have fit better in the pages of "The National Enquirer" than our student newspaper. "Culture of Corruption: Obama and His Team of Tax Cheats, Crooks, and Cronies," read the headline above menacing photos of President Obama, his wife and fellow Democrats. (And that's actually the title of Malkin's most recent book.)

The morning of the event, Malkin issued a challenge on her blog, michellemalkin.com. "UT-Austin illegal alien students are waging a hunger strike here ... and they plan to attend the event tonight," she wrote. "Bring it on."

During Tuesday night's speech, sophomore Him Ranjit brought it. "I want to give back to this great country by working and paying taxes after I graduate college," Ranjit said in a statement publicly directed to Malkin. "The DREAM Act is my only opportunity to do that. What would you suggest for me?" Answered Malkin, "Get in the

back of the line."

Interviewed by "The American Independent" after the event, Malkin showed much disdain to the students who attended in support of the DREAM Act. "You know, based on their debate skills, I am not sure how much they even have to contribute to this country," Malkin said. "And you can quote me on that."

The antagonism continued later that night on Twitter. Ranjit (@himnp13) tweeted, "Me and @isareyna discussed and questioned michelle malkin but in the end she bitched out, gave vague answers and just left.#dreamact."

Not to be outdone, Malkin (@michellemalkin) responded: "Hi DREAM Act agitator @himnp13. Guess u didn't have balls to call me 'bitch' to my face at UTAustin event. #twittermachismo." In a later tweet directed at College Republicans, Malkin called supporters of the DREAM Act "radicals" and "feckless grievance-mongers untethered 2 reality."

Regardless of your opinion regarding the DREAM Act or your partisan loyalty, it's hard to justify that Malkin has contributed in any meaningful way to a rational campus dialogue. Instead, her hyperbole, radical viewpoint, antagonistic tone and divisive words meant to shock rather than inform have further polarized the debate.

Unfortunately, the College Republicans' decision to associate themselves with her has only alienated them from moderate, sensible students. Nice job.

Curl is an advertising graduate student.

RECYCLE

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LEGALESE

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SUBMIT A FIRING LINE

E-mail your Firing Lines to firingline@dailytexanonline.com. Letters must be more than 100 and fewer than 300 words. The Texan reserves the right to edit all submissions for brevity, clarity and liability.

— Alex Greenberg
University-Wide Representative, SG



Longhorn of the year

The Daily Texan Editorial Board is seeking suggestions for "Longhorn of the Year." The "Longhorn of the Year" is an individual or group that had the most positive impact on the UT community throughout 2010.

You can suggest a candidate by e-mailing the name of the nominee and a short explanation to firingline@dailytexanonline.com, writing on the wall of the Facebook event page, "Longhorn of the Year" or tweeting us @DTeditorial.

We'll print finalists later this week and announce our selection on Dec. 8 in the last paper of the semester.

LONGHORN OF THE YEAR

Editor's note: The following is an excerpt of a suggestion we have received for Longhorn of the Year. Read the full endorsement online at dailytexanonline.com.

I want to nominate Matt Portillo as Longhorn of the Year because of his dedicated and selfless service to this campus and its students. He was one of the few students in SG who responded to student protests against the administration proposing to shut down the Cactus Cafe. He attends every sporting event, such as volleyball, soccer, baseball, football, basketball, swimming, and he has more school spirit than the other 49,999 longhorns combined. He also attends every rally, tradition and student-sponsored event to show support.

Two days before the UT vs. A&M game, Matt suffered a collapsed lung and was hospitalized

for two days. He was released from the hospital on Thanksgiving and, determined to make it to the final (home) game of the season, went home, changed into his burnt orange and attended the freezing cold game to support the Longhorns. Plus, for most students, an event like a collapsed lung would put extracurricular involvement on a hiatus for a while in order to rest and recover for finals. Not Matt. He was at the final SG meeting of the semester, debating and advocating for students as always.

Stop the madness

By Jonathan Rienstra
Daily Texan Columnist

Are you upset that Four Loko is no longer carried in the refrigerators of convenience stores and can only be found in the impromptu bomb shelter you set up in your closet? Been thinking to yourself, "Hey, what are politicians going to go crazy over now that they drove a stake through a drink whose only real crime was that it was consumed by people who can't handle their shit?"

Well, don't worry. Those bastions of overreaction have wasted no time in finding the next assault on the American Dream: alcoholic whipped cream. "Whipahols," sold under names such as "Whipped Lightning" and "CREAM," are beginning to pop up in liquor stores in such crazy flavors as chocolate, raspberry and caramel. The cans contain anywhere from 15 to 18 percent alcohol and are, apparently, the "newest thing."

And because every new thing is merely a reiteration of something before it, some media outlets have dubbed Whipahols "Four Loko Lite."

This is where I pour cold water on my head. So far, it appears that these confections of the devil are only sold around Boston, only in liquor stores and at \$13 per can to boot. But that isn't stopping the people in charge of caring too much from caring too much.

Dr. Anita Barry of the Boston Public Health Commission seemed a popular interview subject in stories posted on Boston.com and Yahoo! News. The Boston Herald reported her as saying that Whipahol consumers "can get a significant amount of alcohol in one shot."

She goes on to add that "If a product looks like something else, it's easy not to be aware that it might contain a lot of alcohol."

This is the part where I put my hand on a hot stove to see if I'm dreaming.

First, Dr. Barry, do you know where else you can find a significant amount of alcohol in one shot? Correct! It is indeed in one shot of alcohol. Ten points for Slytherin.

Second, when confused as to whether the

whipped cream you are about to purchase for your cheesecake has alcohol in it, look up and take in your surroundings. Are you in a liquor store? If yes, then I'm going to guess that it does contain alcohol. And if you are looking for non-Whipahols at your nearest liquor store, well, you may have other problems.

One newscast suggested that those kid-friendly flavors such as chocolate and caramel and the novelty of alcoholic whipped cream catered to a younger demographic, one that is possibly underage and susceptible to binge drinking. Heck, the MySpace page for "CREAM" even suggests using the stuff as topping for Jell-O shots.

But you want to know why Whipahols are not "kid friendly?" For starters, "CREAM" has a MySpace page. Besides, whipped cream isn't exactly binge-compatible. An entire can contains about the same amount of alcohol as only three beers.

In the time it would take to quickly drink three beers, one could also come to the conclusion that eating a whole can of whipped cream is reserved for post-break up afternoons watching John Cusack flicks.

So maybe that's the crowd Whipahols should cater to. But at \$13 a can, most college students, and certainly every high school student, will opt for the plastic bottle on the bottom shelf instead.

Parents, university administrators and other old people were quick to jump on the Four Loko issue and cited concern for the safety of young drinkers. However, college students are responsible enough to decide what they want to put in their bodies, and such a nanny-state mentality is unnecessary.

Let's nip this in the bud before the madness spreads any further. Members of the media, politicians and concerned authoritative figures — rest easy. The children are safe. The American Dream will live on in your minds. These are not the weapons of mass destruction you are looking for. Here, look, I baked y'all some waffles. Just let me top it off with some Whipahols for you. Don't worry. I'm legal.

Rienstra is a journalism junior.

Recession raises need for student tuition aid

By Lauren Giudice
Daily Texan Staff

An increase in the number of low-income students requiring financial aid has raised the cost of attending both public and private colleges and universities, according to a recent study of higher education institutions. During the 2009-10 school year, 33,387 students attended UT and received a total of \$491,736,678 in financial aid. “The current recession has certainly contributed to the number of students who could not afford to attend UT Austin without receiving some form of financial aid,” Melecki said.

Melecki said the Texas Education Code requires the University to set aside a certain percentage of the tuition it collects to fund financial aid that is awarded on the basis of financial need. Without the tuition being set aside, the University would have had about \$37 million less in financial aid for several thousand students during the last school year, he said.

“The entire state, including their fellow students, benefits, too,” he said. “Research consistently shows that people who obtain college degrees — especially from institutions such as UT — are the types of people that employers want and need in our knowledge-based economy.”

Bradley Curs, an assistant professor at the University of Missouri at Columbia was one of the researchers in the study.

He said the solution to the high cost of higher education is for governments and institutions to work together on forming financing plans for the state.

NEWS BRIEFLY

Donna Howard wins election for state house after recount

State Rep. Donna Howard, D-Austin, has won re-election to the Texas House of Representatives by a margin of just 12 votes, a recount by the Travis County Elections Division showed. The recount — conducted by a group of citizens composed of Republicans, Democrats and Libertarians — finished late Thursday.

Howard had led by as many as 16 votes before the recount was conducted.

“This reaffirms what the voters said on Election Day,” said Andy Brown, chairman of the Travis County Democratic Party. “Donna Howard is going to go forward and represent Travis County very well.”

Howard’s opponent, Republican Dan Neil, still has the option to appeal the result of the recount.

“We have not decided whether or not to appeal the result of the recount,” said Zach Vaughn, a spokesman for the Neil campaign. “We’re going to sit back and make our decision.”

Vaughn said there were some errors on some of the mail-in ballots and that their campaign was going to examine those ballots.

— Nolan Hicks

Ambassador offers insight on global issues

By Allie Kolečta
Daily Texan Staff

North America and Europe must join forces to discuss solutions to major global issues such as the economy, nuclear disarmament, violent extremism and climate change before the rest of the world will follow, the German ambassador to the United States said Thursday at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs.

Ambassador Klaus Scharioth told a crowd of about 80 at the LBJ Library that North America and Europe have the power to start the discussion for solutions to major international issues because of their shared values of democracy, rule of law, tolerance, human rights and freedom of the press. He added that countries of the two regions must gather the support of other regions in the process so that they can strengthen global bonds and solve problems quickly and more effectively.

“All the issues and problems

we are facing are global ones,” he said. “I think if we don’t band together, we will not be able to face challenges successfully.”

Improvements on climate change and the economic crisis have already been made in Germany, he said, adding that carbon dioxide emissions have been reduced 22 percent since 1990, and unemployment rates are down from 7.2 to 7 percent in the past year.

Scharioth said relations between North America and Europe are good, but the two need to begin the discussion more certainly to gather support.

UT law professor Robert Chesney said the ambassador has a history of cooperating with U.S. diplomats on issues of global importance such as the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia in 1999. Scharioth has served in the German Foreign Service since 1976, served as Chef de Cabinet to the secretary general of NATO and headed the Foreign Office’s Inter-

“All the issues and problems we are facing are global ones.”

— Klaus Scharioth
German ambassador



Thomas Allison | Daily Texan Staff

Vic Niemeyer Jr. finds a seat before a speech given by Klaus Scharioth, German ambassador to the United States, in the LBJ Library on Thursday.

national Security and North American Directorate.

“The ambassador has a long and rich tradition of involvement in America,” Chesney said.

European studies sophomore

Katie Bruton agreed with Scharioth and said North America and Europe share a duty to jump start the solution process, but should not disregard the ideas of other nations in their efforts.

“We have this idea that it’s our responsibility to monitor the world,” she said. “We need to carry this burden, but it’s a fine line between sounding pompous and being responsible.”

Secretary pushes for DREAM Act

By Allison Kroll
Daily Texan Staff

Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano said the DREAM Act can strengthen U.S.

national security by refusing law enforcement on undocumented immigrants who have committed violent crimes as well as human and drug trafficking.

The DREAM Act provides a path to permanent residency for undocumented immigrants through attending a university or serving in the military for at least two years. Napolitano said during a conference call with reporters that the DREAM Act is a comprehensive, tough but fair strategy that would strictly enforce immigration law.

“It will strengthen our military and economy,” she said. “It’s important to point out that it fits into a larger strategy of immigration enforcement prioritizing the removal of dangerous criminal aliens from our country.”

The United States has deported more criminal aliens in the last two years than any equal time frame in the country’s history, Napolitano said.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., promised to bring the legislation up for a vote before the lame duck session adjourns.

“We enforce the law because we took an oath to enforce the law,” she said. “We want to prioritize criminal aliens who have violated our laws, human traffickers and other dangerous individuals.”

The current immigration laws need to be updated to enforce laws against those who are actually breaking them, she said.

Biochemistry sophomore

Erick Rodriguez, who immigrated from Mexico as a child, said the “Dreamers” should not be held responsible for actions that were out of their control.

“[Immigrants] should still be seen as people who deserve to be here,” Rodriguez said. “They were brought as children without consent and without the mental maturity to fully understand the implications of crossing the US-Mexico border.”

Rodriguez said talented students should be allowed to contribute to society no matter their legal status when they arrived in the U.S.

“Not all of us grow up to be the best representation for our race, yet the ones who go on to college are not the ‘problem’ and will continue to contribute to the place they

call their home,” he said.

President Barack Obama supports the DREAM Act, but the bill needs leadership from within Congress to have any chance of becoming law, Napolitano said.

“The Congress needs to act. They need to come together on a bipartisan basis and recognize that in the grand scheme of this country, we do not punish people who have no fault,” she said. “That’s the kind of brains and commitment to our country I like to see, and that’s why the DREAM Act makes so much sense.”

UT law adjunct professor William Beardall said the DREAM Act will unleash the talent and resourcefulness of the young people who have worked hard to make something of themselves.



Janet Napolitano
Secretary of Homeland Security

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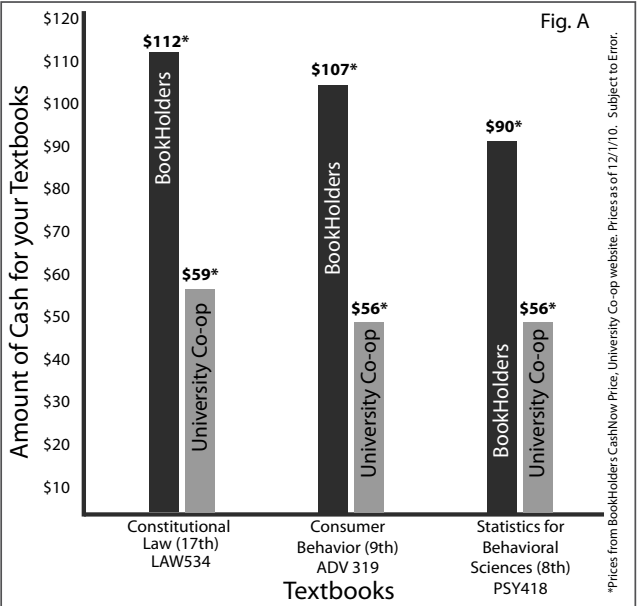
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VOLLEYBALL

Longhorns hope to set rhythm in round one

By Austin Laymance
Daily Texan Staff
While the expectations for Texas heading into the NCAA tournament are lower than in previous years, the Longhorns will be heavy favorites tonight when they face UTSA in the first round.

It's the quintessential David vs. Goliath storyline, with big bad Texas taking on its little sibling from San Antonio.

But the No. 6 Longhorns aren't looking past the underdog Roadrunners. Head coach Jerrett Elliott has downplayed talk of a possible rematch with No. 14 Illinois — a team that swept Texas in Austin back in September — in the Sweet 16.

"We have to take care of UTSA in the first round, they're a good opponent. But we need to get our rhythm going and play well," Elliott said. "That's our focus point now. We have to ensure we are one of the teams that gets to the regional next weekend."

But the Longhorns (23-5; 18-2 Big 12) still have Juliann Faucette, the Big 12 Player of the Year, on their side and the senior outside hitter has picked up her performance leading up to the Big Dance.

"Juliann has played really well the last two months," Elliott said. "She's found a great rhythm, her confidence is the highest it's ever been since she's been with this program and she's carrying a big load for us."

The award is the culmination of four long years of hard work by Faucette, something that has not gone unnoticed by her teammates. As junior setter Michelle



Danielle Villasana | Daily Texan Staff

Juliann Faucette prepares to return a set against Oklahoma earlier this season. Faucette and the Longhorns take on UTSA in the first round of the NCAA Tournament today. Coach Jerrett Elliott said the Roadrunners are an opponent that Texas can't look past.

Kocher puts it, the team feeds off her dedication.

"It's what she deserves, she's one of the hardest working players," Kocher said. "She'll come in early and even despite all the accolades she gets, you wouldn't know that by the way she practices every day. She deserves it."

And with two players on the All-Big 12 first team — Faucette and junior middle blocker Rachael Adams — the Longhorns have big-time talent and are poised to make some noise in the tournament.

"We're one of the teams that can

contend for the Final Four," Elliott said. "It's going to be tough from the second round on."

But before Texas makes any travel plans for the finals in Kansas City, they have to avoid a major letdown against the 22-11 Roadrunners.

"Our program has done really well in the past of just taking things one game at a time," Kocher said.

The road to the Final Four goes through Austin, and it's up to the Longhorns to protect the home court advantage one set at a time.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Hamilton heads home to face USC

By Dan Hurwitz
Daily Texan Staff
Jordan Hamilton was in attendance when Texas played UCLA during the first Big 12/Pac-10 Hardwood Series in 2007. Only a junior in high school at the time, the Los Angeles native witnessed a 63-61 Longhorn win.

This weekend he will return to his hometown when the Longhorns play USC on Sunday night in the final year of the series between the two conferences.

Hamilton, who grew up only five minutes from USC's Galen Center, will have his own cheering section full of friends and family.

"It's a business trip," Hamilton said. "After the game I get to see some of my friends."

There is no extra pressure for Hamilton in playing in front of those closest to him.

"I'm just going to go out there and have fun," Hamilton said.

Texas had little trouble with the Trojans in last year's matchup at the Frank Erwin Center,

winning 69-50. This year, the Longhorns will run into a USC team that has been struggling this season and coming off of back to back losses to Nebraska and TCU.

"USC lost a couple games this year, but they are still a good team," Hamilton said. "They are still a Pac-10 team."

The game will be the Longhorns' first true road game of the year. Despite the Hardwood Series not being renewed, head

USC continues on page 7



Jeff Heimsath | Daily Texan Staff

Jordan Hamilton looks for a Texas teammate to pass to against Louisiana Tech earlier this season. When the Longhorns head to Los Angeles this weekend, Hamilton will be playing in front of friends and family.

MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

Dominant Texas team to be tested at home

By Lauren Giudice
Daily Texan Staff
With their first home meet of the season, No. 1 Texas will look to maintain its dominance against No. 5 Arizona and Wisconsin this weekend.

The three-day Annual Texas Swimming and Diving Hall of Fame Invitational will be an opportunity to see what they can improve on. All 21 events contested at the conference and NCAA championships will be featured.

"Arizona comes to this meet every year, and they're always

real good," said head coach Eddie Reese. "This is a meet they shave and taper for, trying to make their NCAA qualifying times, and they're a real good team and they always make them."

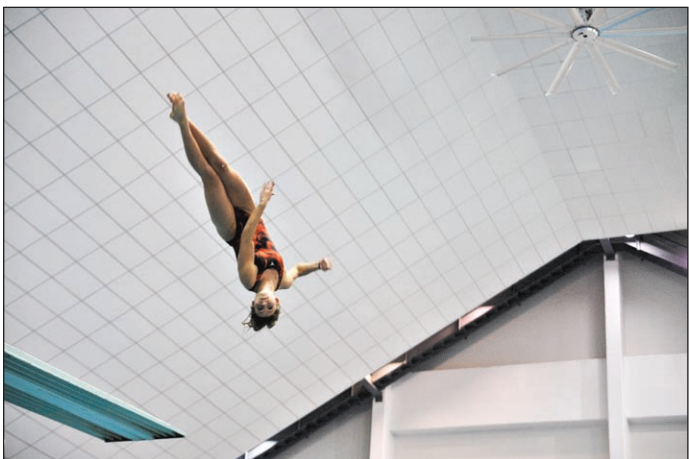
Texas is coming off of a pair of dual-meet victories over Indiana and Michigan and have recently been named No. 1 by the College Swimming Coaches Association of America.

Texas may be ranked at the top, but Reese is excited for the

TEST continues on page 7

WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

Undefeated look to continue win streak



Thomas Allison | Daily Texan Staff

Texas' Maren Taylor maneuvers her body in mid-air during the Texas Swimming and Diving Hall of Fame Invitational.

By Sara Beth Purdy
Daily Texan Staff
The Longhorns are finally coming home.

After swimming to an impressive 4-0 record on the road against daunting opponents, fans are finally able to witness their third-ranked Texas team in action.

This weekend, more than 2,000 athletes will descend upon the Lee and Joe Jamail Texas Swimming Center for the three-day Texas Swimming and Diving Hall of Fame Invitational. This competition, which includes both the men's and women's teams, features all 21 events commonly seen in NCAA

STREAK continues on page 7

SIDELINE

NFL



Houston
Texans

24



Philadelphia
Eagles

34

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



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vs.



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JOKE OF THE WEEK

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To read about Longhorn football, see Double Coverage

USC: Horns prep for offensive test against Trojans

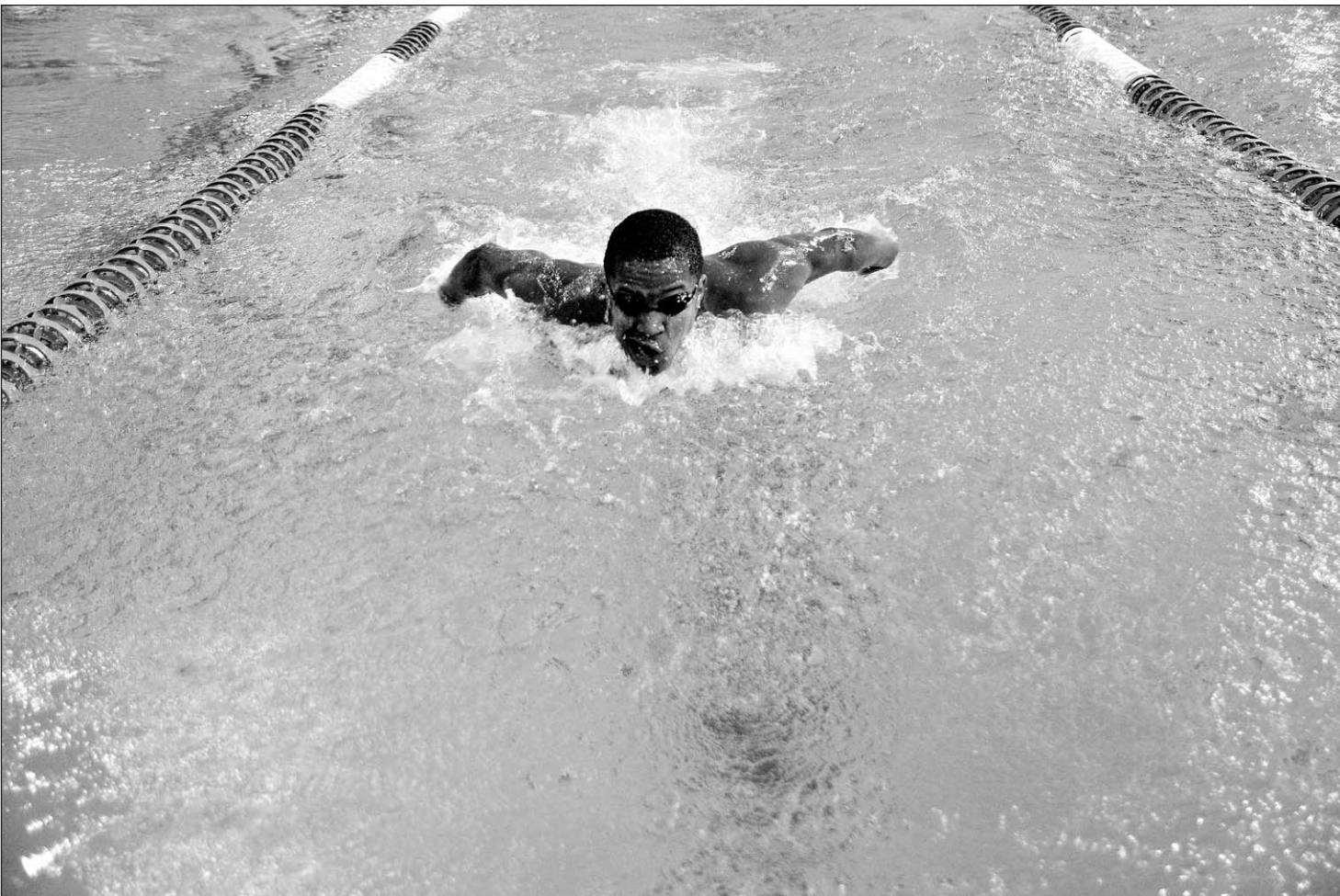
From page 6

coach Rick Barnes hopes to still be able make it out to California for recruiting purposes. "We will still be able to schedule out there," Barnes said. "I'd like to get into California." While recruiting is on Barnes' mind when heading west, what is most important is the game. And like the Trojans, the Longhorns have been far from perfect. Riding a three-game win streak, Texas has struggled at times on the offensive end. Opposing teams have exposed the Longhorns' weakness against a zone defense as they are challenging Texas to shoot from the outside. The long-range shot has been inconsistent this year, making only 32 percent of their three point attempts. Hamilton has led the way in shooting for the Longhorns, making 44 percent of his shots from behind the arc, and freshman Cory Joseph has been coming along as of late. Joseph made only two of his first 13 attempts this season, but in the last two games converted seven of 12 threes. "The more he is out there, the better he is going to be," Barnes said.

TEST: Reese, UT swimmers welcome No. 5 Arizona

From page 6

meet this weekend to see where the team needs to improve. "That's why they're here, I'll find what we need to do to get better," Reese said. "We've still got three-and-a-half months to go to get it right." Reese is happy with the freshmen's performances so far, but he is interested to see how they perform at the meet. "They've been freshmen and all that goes with that," Reese said. "We are really glad this meet has come up, because this is where we get to find out what they've been doing and how it is going to work out for them because I have rested them more than most." Although the team won the National Championship last season and has returned with 11 all-Americans, Reese has continued pushing them. "I've got a real good group," Reese said. "I have worked them harder than our team worked last year, and they have worked themselves harder. They have been doing a great job." Although the team has countless big names, Reese said there will be some unexpected stars on the team. "We've got about six or seven guys that are going to be a pleasant surprise here," Reese said. "Some you expect so much from, and they're going to be the older guys. They're all going to do



Thomas Allison | Daily Texan Staff

Freshman Kerrington Hill glides down the lane in the freestyle event of the Texas Swimming and Diving Hall of Fame Invitational on Thursday. The tournament continues through Saturday at the Lee and Joe Jamail Texas Swimming Center.

real well." With the Lee and Joe Jamail Texas Swimming Center being one of the premier facilities in the countries, other teams look forward to coming to Austin to

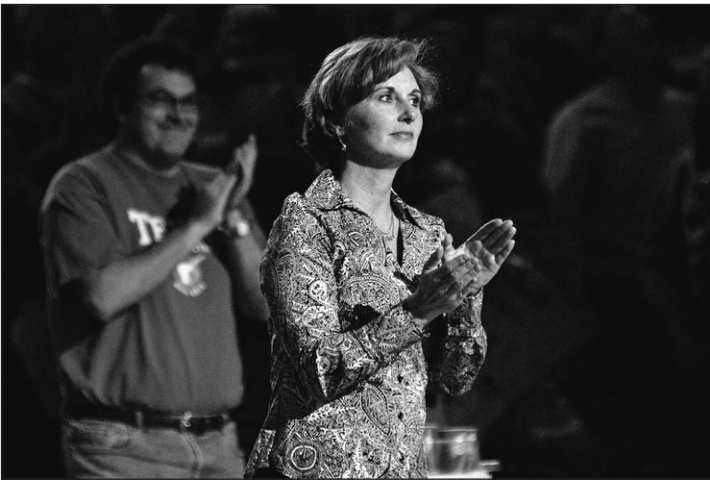
swim. But for the Longhorns, it's just another day at the office. "We swim in it everyday," Reese said. "It's like if you grow up in the Taj Mahal, it becomes home; nothing special."

STUDY: Texas prepares for second-ranked opponent

From page 6

"Our communication could have been a lot better on defense. There were times when we hesitated," said junior Ashley Gayle. "Practice has been intense; we are working hard, focusing on things we messed up on and watching a lot of film before practice; really trying to key into all the things we did wrong." Now going to Michigan State, the Longhorns are mentally and physically preparing for a great Michigan State team. "They don't have the same height, but all of their players shoot the three and shoot the three very well," Goestenkers said. "Now our post players have to do a better job stepping out and defending the three. When you play great teams, there is a reason they're good. It's because

they've got a lot of talent and it exposes any weakness you may have." The Spartans feature senior Kalisha Keane who has scored at least 20 points in her past four games, tying for the most in the Big 10. She has led MSU in scoring in six of seven games this season. She comes in at 15th on the Spartans' career scoring list with 1,161 points. "I think it's going to be another good game on the road, and it's going to be another test," Gayle said. For Goestenkers, returning to her home state Sunday is something she is looking forward to. But just as she continually encourages her squad to remain focused, she looks to remaining focused as well. "My parents, when it's basketball season, know it's all busi-



Peter Franklin | Daily Texan file photo

Texas head coach Gail Goestenkers applauds as her team prepares for tip-off.

ness," Goestenkers said. "Right now I have 17 family members coming. They're pretty hard on me. They've got high expectations, so we've got to come and play."

STREAK: Team coming home with perfect record at stake

From page 6

competitions. Spectators will get to watch athletes from many universities across the country, such as seventh-ranked Arizona, as well as a team from Sydney University in Australia. Because of their impressive start, the Longhorns debut the season ranked third in the College Swimming Coaches Association of America poll which was released in mid-November. Sophomore Laura Sogar, along with junior Karlee Bispo and sophomore diver Maren Taylor, once again lead a strong Texas team into this weekend's meet. This Texas team is attempting to forget their unfortunate 11th-place finish at last March's NCAA championships and have done a remarkable job.

The team as a whole has impressed the country with victories over No. 5 Cal in addition to a dominating performance at their first dual meet of the season against Michigan and Indiana. Several athletes have also stood out this semester on a national scale. Sogar was voted a National Swimmer of the Week in October while Bispo was named Big 12 Conference Swimmer of the Week after a dominating performance that led to three individual victories against Texas A&M in early November. "I think what our women do really well is they rise to the occasion," said head coach Kim Brackin, "They swim up to their competitors." With the 40 Acres hoping to return to glory after a disappointing football season, this group of Longhorns is ready to take advantage of a home meet.

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ELEPHANT RIDES

Solution: 8 letters

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T M D E A H S A F E L I A V A
T B A E G N I X A L E R I E T
I R N P L I I B R H A E L N I
N E G E D D L M I P D V A T R
G L E R F N D L A T S I N U E
N L R A A A I A E L R R D R H
A A E T N D M K S T E D T E A
T F D T S D W O R C N S E T B
U R O A F W Y K U N I I R S I
R I O N E O E G A S A R A A T
A C F E D H N N S E R I C M A
L A I C O S O A P O T A S U T
D N U F J U M B O E D I V A S

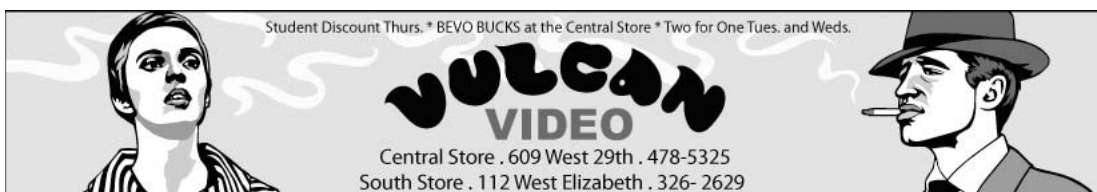
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Yesterday's Answer: Mariachi

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RECYCLE your copy of THE DAILY TEXAN





Catalina Padilla | Daily Texan Staff
The holiday season brings with it delicious temptations. Callie waits with her mother for their crepe to enjoy a treat outside in the winter cold. Remember: All things, especially the sweets, in moderation.

FOOD: Avoiding desserts entirely not only solution to weight gain

From page 10

“If you are monitoring your caloric intake, then give yourself an extra 500 to 700 calories on Christmas day, instead of not monitoring at all,” Faries said. “Wear a pedometer and see how many steps you take during all the holiday busyness.”

Faries also suggests rising above immediate stimuli, such as unhealthy foods. He says to keep your goals in mind, remind yourself of the importance of your goals and remember that you can have leftovers.

“You can still enjoy the pleasures of the holidays while not losing all the good inertia you have going with your behavior,” Faries said. “Pay attention, monitor something and transcend.”

Dixie Stanforth, a lecturer in the department of kinesiology and health education, recommends allowing some indulgence but not to overdo it and said that plan-

ning ahead works best.

Stanforth suggests eating foods that will keep you full throughout the day of a party, such as foods with high fiber, soups and salads, which will save some calories that you can use later in the day.

“If you know you are a dessert eater, eat way less of the regular foods served to provide room for those sweet calories. If you love the cheesy, snacky-type foods, skip the desserts,” Stanforth said.

“If you are planning to indulge, don’t worry about balance for that one meal — but eat clean a day before and after at a minimum.”

Stanforth said alcohol often means empty calories, so choosing lighter beverages such as wine spritzers or mixers such as sparkling water can lead to lower calorie consumption.

Bethany Dario, a registered dietitian who provides nutritional education for students at University Health Services, said that many students feel stress from

family life and chaos at home during the holidays, which may lead to emotional eating.

“Food may comfort for the short term, distract from the pain or even appease someone in the house, but food won’t solve the problem,” Dario said. “If anything, eating for an emotional hunger will only make you feel worse in the long run. You’ll ultimately have to deal with the source of the emotion, as well as the discomfort of overeating.”

Dario also said that knowing your hunger cues are the most important thing for maintaining a healthy weight over the holidays and during the rest of the year.

“The most basic answer is eat when you are hungry and stop when you are full,” Dario said. “Rather than trying to manipulate the types of foods or avoid the ‘good stuff’ or the quantity of those foods that we consume, we need to focus on our bodies’ hunger and fullness cues. Honor your hunger and respect your fullness.”

JONES: Local theater contributes venue

From page 10

tattletale May, has been shaking things up and getting Junie B. in trouble, creating a situation that threatens to destroy Junie B.’s Christmas spirit.

A Wisconsin native, Miller came to Austin from Milwaukee, home to the prominent First Stage Children’s Theater. Upon arriving in Austin, Miller noticed that despite the strong sense of family in the city, there was no family-geared theater, no children’s theater. In fact, the closest children’s theater was in Dallas, three hours away. “Junie B.” Gregory, a Seattle native, shared Miller’s disbelief.

“[When] I came here, I said, ‘Where’s the family theater, where’s the theater for young people?’” Gregory said. “[Austin] is such a family-friendly city, and to not have a resource like a children’s theater, which for someone like me from Seattle is just an exceptional theater, is [astounding].”

Inspired by the open spot on the Austin stage, Miller went to the Paramount and proposed an idea: He called for the Paramount to provide the stage and the materials for a children’s theater production and suggested that UT supply the actors and the talent. The partnership would be truly beneficial because the students would receive experience credit for participating in a professional production, while the Paramount would save on the money needed to hire professional actors and designers.

“It’s absurd that we have all this talent and resources as a city and all these families and [not have a children’s theater.]” Miller said.

But while it may be called children’s theater, the adults aren’t completely left out on the stage or in the audience. With “Junie B. Jones,” as in all children’s theater, adults play all the children’s roles. As a result, the play can connect to a broader audience,

WHAT: Junie B. Jones Play
WHERE: Paramount Theatre at 713 Congress Ave.
WHEN: Sunday, 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.
WEB: austintheater.org
TICKETS: \$15

from parent to child. While the choice may seem strange, acting graduate student Amanda Morish, who plays Lucille in the production, doubts that the age difference will affect kids’ perception of the play.

“Nobody’s playing their characters stupidly or playing them like a child. These are individuals, these are human beings that have needs and desires and relationships,” Morish said. “[Junie B.] is kind of about how all that unfolds in this one classroom area where they’re all together.”

PEDAL: Hobby healthy, environment-friendly

From page 10

originally started in New York in 2001 after founder Brendt Barbur was hit by a bus while riding his bike in New York City. After reflecting on his negative experience, he created the event to bring together the biking community and promote a healthy relationship between bikers and automobile drivers.

The festival has now become an international event, reaching from São Paulo to Melbourne.

Winograd began biking recreationally as a child with her family in Houston, a city she described as dominated by cars.

“What I liked about biking was the wind across my face and being able to see the city through a different lens, not enclosed in a car zipping by,” she said.

Before she saw the bicycle as a regular mode of transportation in her adult life, Winograd saw it as her way to explore and find the kind of secret places children think nobody has ever found.

People might be wary of biking as a mode of transportation because they find the physical activity to be too strenuous or they don’t want to show up to work sweaty, Winograd said.

Biking is also a lifestyle, aside from being a form of exercise and a way to not produce carbon emissions, she said.

“Social rides have popped up in a lot of major cities,” Winograd said. “It’s important to show cars we have a right to be there, too, and that we can be responsible. We can share the road and work with cars, not against them.”

Winograd said she wants to work against the antagonism of rude bikers and those who don’t follow traffic laws.

The fear of getting hurt is a factor that keeps some people off bikes. Although she has only been in a few minor accidents, Winograd said many people who have been in the biking community for a long time know someone who has died.

“Cars can be scary, but you have to be alert and show respect for road rules,” Winograd said.

Friday night of the festival begins with “The Birth of Big Air,” a film tribute to BMX athlete Mat Hoffman. A screening of “Empire” follows it. The film follows “alley cat” bikers, or messenger bikers, in New York City who know how to weave in and out of traffic.

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UT drama students work on holiday show for kids

By Jody Serrano
Daily Texan Staff

This December, armed with a green elf costume, a merry jingle hat and sporting her signature shock of red hair and sassy spirit, Junie B. Jones has come to spread the joy of the holidays and children's theater to Austin with "Junie B. Jones in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!" the first of many collaborations between the UT Department of Theatre and Dance and the local Paramount Theatre.

The play, made up of a full cast of UT students and designers, is the first on schedule for a proposed four-year partnership between the department and the Paramount Theatre in downtown Austin.

UT alumnus and Paramount's Education and Outreach Director Nathaniel Miller proposed the possible partnership between UT and the Paramount earlier this year. After graduating in 2008 with a master's in drama and theater for youth, Miller was hired to the Paramount.

From day one on the job, Miller suggested the

company try to produce children's theater. Two-and-a-half years after his initial suggestion, the Paramount stands to premiere their first ever children's theater production with "Junie B. Jones in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!" on Sunday. The play is directed by UT professor Steven Dietz.

"Children's theater is challenging, artistic, satisfying work that is enjoyed by all ages. It's not just [a show] for little kids that parents have to get dragged to and endure," Miller said. "We [are] creating a universal entertainment."

Based on Barbara Park's book "Junie B. Jones in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells! (P.S. So Does May)," the theater version of "Junie B.," written by playwright Allison Gregory, focuses on Junie's adventures during the holiday season.

It's that wonderful time of the year again for Junie B. Jones, and Room One, her first grade classroom, has a lot of fun activities planned, including a class Christmas carol for the whole school. Unfortunately, Junie B.'s long-time enemy,

JONES continues on page 9



Shannon Kintner | Daily Texan Staff

Junie B. Jones, played by Liz Kimball, wonders if Santa will be mad if she gives coal to a fellow classmate during Christmas. "Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!" opens this weekend at the Paramount Theatre.

Avoid post-break gut by keeping good habits



By Addie Anderson

'Tis the season of giving — and gaining weight. Between holiday parties allowing indulgence of comfort foods, alcohol and lounging around during the day since we now have no classes to fill our days, the holiday fat seems to creep on.

Holidays tend to be a free pass to eat whatever we want, whenever we want. However, this weight can quickly become dangerous.

A study from The New England Journal of Medicine looked into the weight of adults before, during and after the holidays. The study found that adults gained no weight during the pre-holiday season, gained an average of five pounds over the holidays and did not gain — or lose — any weight during the post-holiday season. This cycle can lead to significant weight gain over a few years. Gaining weight, particularly fat, leads to the potential development of diabetes, heart disease and other obesity-related diseases.

Mark Faries, a kinesiology graduate student who also is a graduate research assistant at the Fitness Institute of Texas, said that the regulation of our behavior is like inertia.

On the web

To look up the calorie counts of different foods you're eating or plan to eat, try caloriecounter.com

For more health and nutrition information, check out healthyhorns.utexas.edu/nutrition.html

To track your daily calorie intake and to see how many calories you burn through physical activity, go to livestrong.com/thedailyplate

"The holidays are just the powerful force to stop our behavioral inertia we have going in exercise or healthy eating," Faries said. "We eat what we want, because we do not want to worry about that during the holidays. But think how difficult it can be to build that inertia back up when the holidays are over. It may be weeks, months or years before we get ourselves back in gear."

Faries recommends being aware of your behavior. Instead of checking out because it's holiday time, pay attention to your thoughts, moods, environment, pressures, appetite and impulses. He also recommends monitoring your behavior as you do throughout the rest of the year with diet and exercise.

FOOD continues on page 9



Thomas Allison | Daily Texan Staff

Organizer Laura Fletcher and Holly McClure demonstrate an electronic cycling competition called gold sprints.

Film festival offers cyclists entertainment, socializing

Weekend to feature party on Thursday night, bouts of bike-riding recreation

By Priscilla Totiyapungprasert
Daily Texan Staff

BMX tricks, long-distance rides, racing and just plain recreation — the 10th annual Bicycle Film Festival this weekend has a bit of everything to offer bike enthusiasts.

The event kicked off Thursday night with a party at The Scoot Inn that featured on-stage racing and live DJs. The festival has scheduled bicycle-related film screenings each night Friday through Sunday, an off-road ride, a bike polo game and a BMX jam.

"Entertainment is a big part of

WHAT: Bicycle Film Festival

WHERE: The Scoot Inn

WHEN: Through Dec. 5

WEB: bicycelfilmfest.com/austin

[the festival]," said Amanda Winograd, the producer of the Austin festival. "There's a social aspect to riding, and it's great for people in the biking community to watch a part of their lives in these movies. It's something close to the heart, and people usually cheer or yell something when they relate to something on screen."

The Bicycle Film Festival

PEDAL continues on page 9

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